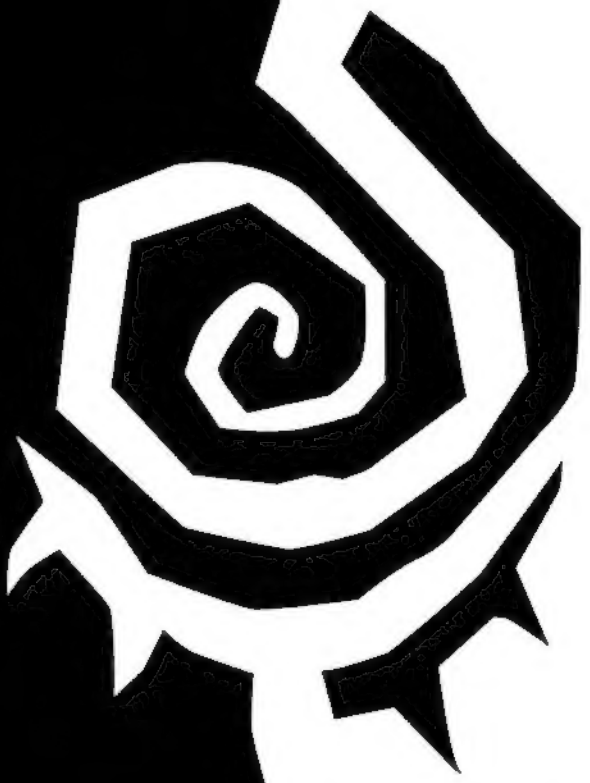
20
1992-2012
image
22
DIGITAL EDITION
HAUNT
JOE CASEY
NATHAN FOX

JOE CASEY Writer

Art NATHAN FOX



Color IVAN PLASCENCIA

Lettering COMICRAFT

Cover Artist NATHAN FOX

JEN CASSIDY Managing Editor

ERIC STEPHENSON Publisher for Image Comics

Haunt Created by TODD McFARLANE and ROBERT KIRKMAN

Haunt #22. March 2013. Digital Edition. Published by IMAGE COMICS, 2134 Allston Way, Second Floor, Berkeley, CA 94704. Haunt, its logo and its symbols are registered trademarks © 2012 Todd McFarlane. All other related characters are TM and © 2012 Todd McFarlane. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance or events used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Todd McFarlane.

image

OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN:
NOT A BAD RIDE SO FAR...
... IF YOU CAN STAND A BIT OF TURBULENCE, EH?
BUT WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT A BIT OF THAT...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE INTO...
... SEEMS LIKE ALL I'VE DEALT WITH LATELY IS TURBULENCE OF ONE FORM OR ANOTHER.
I... JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO NOW...
BOO-HOO, KILGORE.
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS THAT WE WERE ABLE TO HITCH A RIDE BACK TO THE GOOD OL' U.S. OF A.
WELL, THAT'S ALL YOU, TUBMAN. I KNOW THAT.
YOU SAVED OUR ASS BACK THERE.
GUESS I OWE YOU...
... ME AND MY ASSHOLE BROTHER.
"COURSE... HE'S NOT HERE... HE'S...
ZZZZZZZ...
THAT'S RIGHT, KID...
... KURT'S NOT HERE.
YOU CAN TRY TO SLEEP IT OFF. BUT I'M HERE TO TELL YOU...
... THIS WORLD WE'RE TRAPPED IN JUST KEEPS SPINNIN'...

"... AND TIME IS THE FIRE IN WHICH WE BURN."
IDENTIFICATION AND ASSISTED ASSIMILATION, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE GAME.
NOT USUALLY SO MANY BYSTANDERS AROUND WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR MOVE.
IS THIS GONNA BE COOL...?
BACKFLASH 1979
BY JUE CASEY AND JOHN LUCAS
HAVE NO FEAR. THESE FOLKS ARE TOO COKED UP TO MESS WITH US.
BESIDES, I'M UNDERCOVER.
WHATEVER YOU SAY.
YOU'RE THE CONDUCTOR... I'M JUST THE CADDY.
DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT, CAL.
IN THE MEANTIME, JUST TRY TO BLEND.
IN FACT...
UMMM... YEAH.
BIG TRAMMPS FAN, BOSS...?

VERY SMOOTH.
AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH A BLADE IN YOUR HAND.
I PREFER THE TANGO HUSTLE, BY THE WAY...
WELL, YOU NEED A PARTNER FOR THAT.
THAT WAS JUST TO GET MY HEART RATE UP, ALL PART OF THE PROCESS...
YOU KNOW THEY'RE NOT JUST GOING TO LET YOU DO THIS...
I KNOW. THERE'S ALWAYS RESISTANCE TO THINGS BEYOND THE PHYSICAL PLANE.
THAT'S ONE WAY TO PUT IT.
IT'S NOT FOR ME TO EDUCATE 'EM, CAL. I'M JUST DOING MY JOB HERE.
SPEAKING OF...
... LET'S GO WITH THE KATZBALGER.

SYLVESTRO D'AMATO!
THIS IS YOUR LIFE!
AN' WHO DA' HELL'RE YOU--?!
STILL HARVEY TUBMAN, AT YOUR SERVICE.
BEFORE YOU GET YOUR BANANA HAMMOCK IN A BUNCH, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FACT THAT YOU'RE A DRUG DEALING GANGSTER...
...I'M HERE WITH A HIGHER PURPOSE.
I DON'T GIVE A GODDAMN WHY YOU'RE HERE, YA HIPPIE DIRTBAG --
-- MY GUYS'RE GONNA FILLET YOU LIKE LAST NIGHT'S BACCALÀ!
I'M SURE YOU THINK SO, SLY.
BUT YOU AND I HAVE SPECIFIC BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO... SOMETHING THESE THUGS KNOW NOTHING ABOUT.
WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANNA GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY IS UP TO YOU...
... BUT I'M HERE FOR YOUR DEAD SISTER!
OMIGOD...!
SLY... HE CAN SEE ME--?!

N-NO FUGGIN' WAY...!
AIN'T NO WAY YOU CAN SEE HER!
NO ONE BUT ME CAN DO THAT--!
I KNEW IT... I KNEW SOMEONE WOULD BE COMIN' FOR ME--!
PL-PLEASE DON'T LET HIM...
DON'T MAKE NO DIFFERENCE, ANGIE-BABY...!
HE AIN'T TAKIN' SHIT FROM ME!
NOBODY TELLS BLACK SAM WHAT'S WHAT--!
CAL...?
THE KAMPILAN, IF YOU PLEASE.
WATCH THIS --

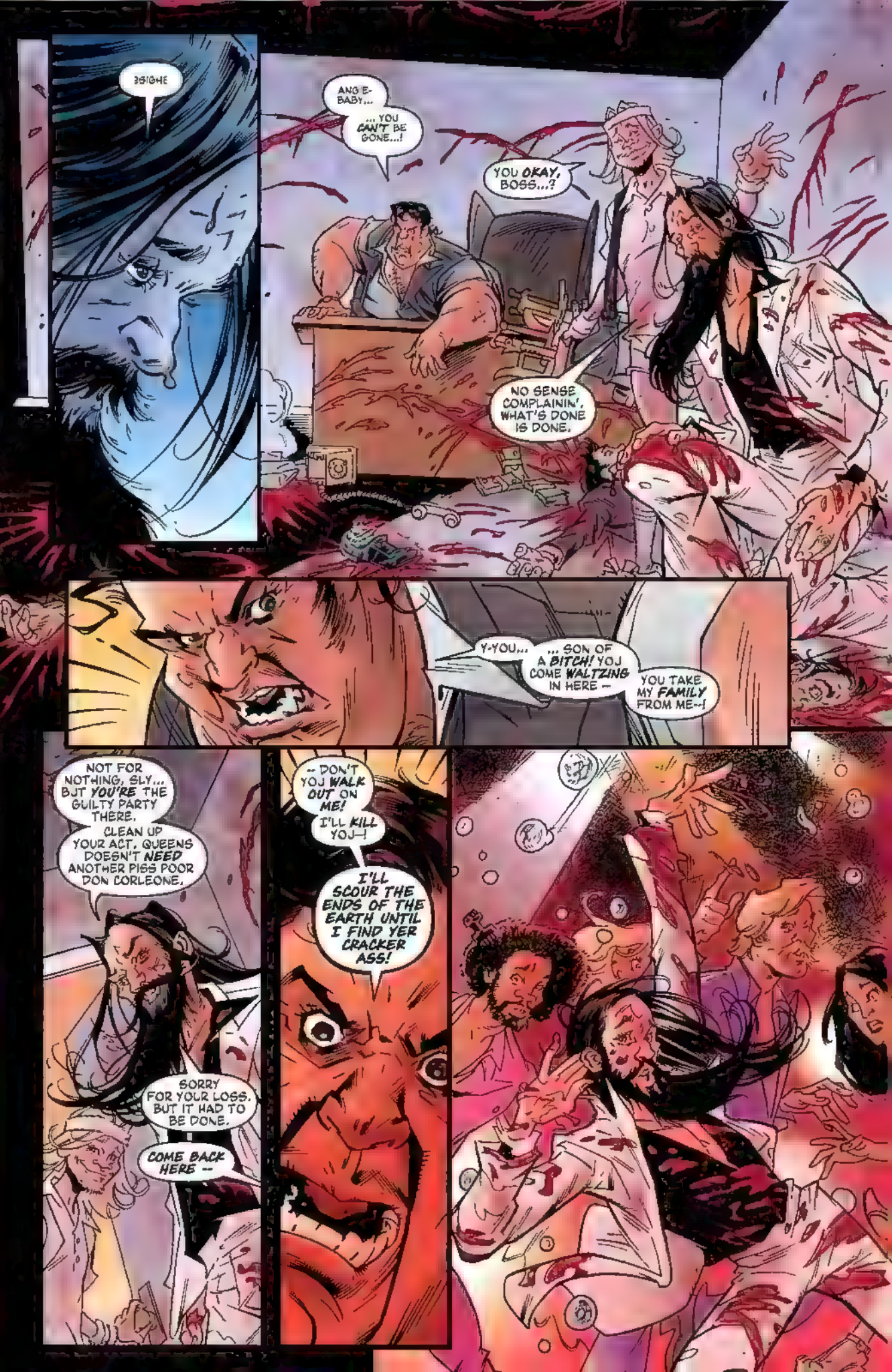
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

NG--!
HEADS UP!
THE HOOK. GOOD CHOICE.
SO... WHO'S NEXT...?

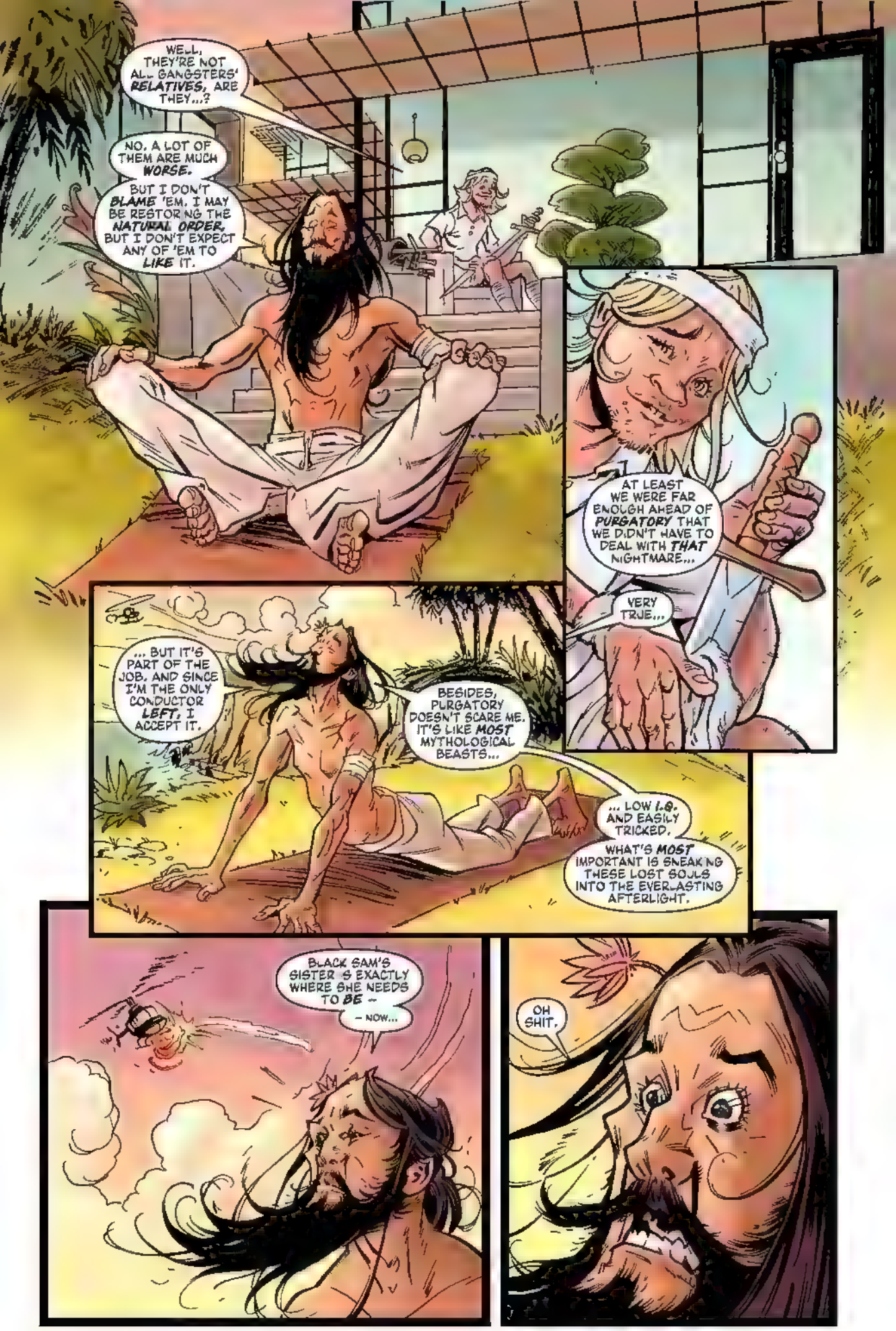
Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

YOU STAY AWAY FROM MY SISTER --
LISTEN, SLY... I GET IT...
... IT WAS YOUR JUNK SHE CROAKED ON. THAT'S A BITCH TO BURDEN.
BUT SHE'S DEAD NOW.
SHE DOESN'T BELONG HERE.
THAT'S IT! I DUNNO WHO DA HELL YOU ARE --
-- BUT I'LL BE GODDAMNED IF I'M GONNA LET YOU --
DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT...
... LET HIM DO HIS THING.
SLY... I-I FEEL LIKE... SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT...!
OMIGOD --
-- WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

SLY--! HELP ME --
-- I-I CAN'T --
STAY WITH ME, ANGIE!
NO!
JUST LET IT HAPPEN.
P-PLEASE, BABY SIS ~
-- WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?!
I DON'T KNOW...
... BUT IT AIN'T LETTIN' ME GO...!
YOU PROMISED MAMA YOU'D TAKE CARE OF ME --
-- SLLLYYYYY --


3SIGHE
ANGIE-BABY...
... YOU CAN'T BE GONE...!
YOU OKAY, BOSS...?
NO SENSE COMPLAININ', WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
Y-YOU...
... SON OF A BITCH! YOJ COME WALTZING IN HERE --
YOU TAKE MY FAMILY FROM ME--!
NOT FOR NOTHING, SLY... BJT YOU'RE THE GUILTY PARTY THERE.
CLEAN UP YOUR ACT. QUEENS DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER PISS POOR DON CORLEONE.
SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS. BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE.
COME BACK HERE --
-- DON'T YOJ WALK OUT ON ME!
I'LL KILL YOJ--!
I'LL SCOUR THE ENDS OF THE EARTH UNTIL I FIND YER CRACKER ASS!

I'M TALK'N' ABOUT BLOOD TIES, FELLAS...
... AIN'T NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT T'ME.
MY SISTER...
... Y'KNOW, SHE SANG LIKE AN ANGEL. NOW SHE IS ONE.
SO THIS HAIRY ZAGNUT... THIS "TUBMAN" ASSHOLE... HE'S NUMERO UNO ON MY BRAND NEW SHIT LIST.
THAT MEANS... I DON'T SLEEP UNTIL HE'S TITS UP IN THE GROUND.
I DON'T MESS AROUND. WHEN I WANT SOMETHING DONE... I HIRE THE BEST.
THAT'S WHERE YOU THREE COME IN...
... YOU GET WHAT I'M SAYIN' HERE...?!
YER CHECK CLEARED, BLACK SAM. SO HOW 'BOUT THIS...
... WE'LL BRING BACK HIS BALLS. YOU CAN PUT 'EM ON YOUR MANTLE.
SHO NUFF.
OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD, I GUESS...


WELL, THEY'RE NOT ALL GANGSTERS' RELATIVES, ARE THEY...?
NO. A LOT OF THEM ARE MUCH WORSE.
BUT I DON'T BLAME 'EM. I MAY BE RESTORING THE NATURAL ORDER, BUT I DON'T EXPECT ANY OF 'EM TO LIKE IT.
AT LEAST WE WERE FAR ENOUGH AHEAD OF PURGATORY THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT NIGHTMARE...
VERY TRUE...
... BUT IT'S PART OF THE JOB. AND SINCE I'M THE ONLY CONDUCTOR LEFT, I ACCEPT IT.
BESIDES, PURGATORY DOESN'T SCARE ME. IT'S LIKE MOST MYTHOLOGICAL BEASTS...
... LOW I.Q. AND EASILY TRICKED.
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT IS SNEAKING THESE LOST SOULS INTO THE EVERLASTING AFTERLIGHT.
BLACK SAM'S SISTER IS EXACTLY WHERE SHE NEEDS TO BE --
-- NOW...
OH SHIT.

TARGET ACQUIRED AND ENGAGED.
PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO SALVAGE HIS BALLS, THOUGH...
KAFFIE
KAFFIE
CAL--!
CAL... C'MON, K.D...
... DON'T...
... DON'T BE...

ELLVUE HOSPITA
SO THIS IS WHERE THEY PUT YOU...
... I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN SEE ME OR NOT... OR IF YOU CAN EVEN HEAR ME...
HONESTLY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WORSE... BEING LOCKED UP IN THE LOONY BIN...
... OR BEING DEAD.
FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE HERE...
... I LOOKED AT YOUR BROTHER'S CHART. DON'T BOTHER TRYING TO COMMUNICATE. HE'S IN HIS OWN WORLD THERE.
NEVER THOUGHT HE'D OUTLIVE YOU...
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU'D SHOW UP, BOSS...
YEAH, I'LL BET.
COME WITH ME. WE SHOULDN'T DO THIS HERE.

ANY SUBTEXT INVOLVED IN BEING HERE, BOSS...?
NAH, IT'S ISOLATED. NO ONE'S GONNA BOTHER US.
SO... GOT ANY MESSAGES YOU WANT ME TO DELIVER TO THE OTHER SIDE...?
TELL 'EM ALL I SAID, "YOU'RE WELCOME".
HERE WE GO.
WHOA --
HOLD UP, CAL. LOOKS LIKE THIS ISN'T A PRIVATE PARTY AT ALL...
... SOMEONE'S HERE FOR SECONDS.

SOMEONE NEEDS TO TELL SLY THAT HE SHOULD QUIT WHILE HE'S AHEAD --
WATCH IT, BOSS--!
I'M FEELING A WEIRD TINGLE... OH NO --
-- IT'S HERE, BOSS!
DON'T TELL ME...

PURGATORY!
DON'T LET IT TAKE ME, BOSS--!
GODDAMN--!

Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

OH JEEZUS... IT'S MADE ME--!
I DON'T WANNA GO OUT THIS WAY!
DON'T WORRY. YOU WON'T.
HUURRAAAGGHH--
I'LL TAKE THAT --

DHAARRRG-G-G-G--
THAT'S RIGHT -- BACK TO WHERE YOU CAME FROM, YOU BASTARD DEMON...
GOD BLESS AMERICA.
YOU MUST STILL HAVE MY PSYCHIC STINK ON YOU, CAL. I NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED IT'D COME AFTER YOU...
YOU DEFINITELY KNOW HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS.
ONE OF THE THINGS I'LL MISS MOST.
DON'T GET SENTIMENTAL ON ME NOW. YOU'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THE SCORE.
AT LEAST NOW YOU'LL GET TO SEE FIRST-HAND WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT.
THAT IS, IF YOU'RE READY...
I AM.
SEE YOU WHEN YOU GET HERE, BOSS...
KEEP HOPE ALIVE, CALVIN.
FEELS LIKE MY TIME'S A LONG WAYS OFF...

NINE YEARS LATER:
I CAN'T IMAGINE YOU'D BE SURPRISED TO SEE ME, SLY. EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
... ALL THE SHIT YOU'VE THROWN AT ME OVER THE YEARS, TRYING TO GET SOME SATISFACTION OVER SOMETHING YOU STILL BLAME ME FOR.
BUT I BIDED MY TIME... AND YOU'VE GOTTEN SOFT AS YOU'VE GOTTEN OLDER...
... SO NOW I'M ENDING THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL.
FOR THE RECORD... HIS NAME WAS CALVIN KUPPERMAN.
HE DESERVED A LOT BETTER THAN JUST BEING THE LAST NAME YOU EVER HEAR...
DRUCKER

... BEEN A LONG AND WINDING ROAD, AND BEING THE LAST CONDUCTOR HAS BEEN NO PICNIC...
... BUT IT'S WHAT I'M HERE TO DO.
Ahhhhhh
WHEN IT COMES TO THE NATURAL ORDER, THE DEAD HAVE THEIR CROSS TO BEAR...
... JUST LIKE THE LIVING DO.
SO SLEEP WHILE YOU CAN, KILGORE.
THIS KIND OF THING... IT'S NEVER EASY. AND IT'S WAY BIGGER THAN ANY OF US.
IN TIME, MAYBE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND. EVEN THOUGH I CAN ALREADY TELL...
... YOU'RE NOT GONNA LIKE IT.
NEXT MONTH:
CITY ON FIRE

EMPIRE